

A
L E T T E R

F R O M

Mr. *Lewis O Neil,*

T O

Peregrine O Donald, Esq;

W I T H

Mr. O DONALD's

A N S W E R.

Haud impune minax.



D U B L I N:

Printed in the Year MDCCXXXIV.

LETTER

MR. LEWIS

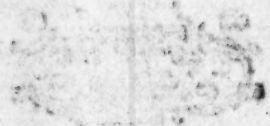
PERGAMON O'DONNELL, Esq.

WITH

MR. O'DONNELL

ANSWER

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DUBLIN:

Printed in the Year MDCCLXXV.

(1)

LETTER

FROM

Mr. Lewis O Neil,

TO

PEREGRINE O DONALD, Esq

WITH

MR. O DONALD'S ANSWER.

To PEREGRINE O DONALD, Esq;

SIR,

According to your Desire, I have directed Mr. C. to advertise the new Edition of the TOAST in all our News Papers. Several ingenious Gentlemen, who apprehended, that the third and fourth Books would never be published, have since been with me, and express much impatience for
A a fight

a sight of this compleat Translation. The mention of the Copper Plates hath raised their Curiosity. They expect to see some Droll Figures in the Frontispieces, and that the whole will exhibit a just representation of the Characters and principal Actions of the Poem. If you would be pleased to send me a Sketch or Description of these Engravings, you would put it into my power to oblige some of my best Friends.

I take this opportunity of acquainting you with an Incident, which has made no small noise in this City, and in which you are so immediately concerned, that I think you cannot well avoid taking some notice of it. A certain great Lady, who is here distinguished by a *Right Honourable* Title, has adopted the character of *Myra*, and insists, that Mr. *Scheffer* has drawn the Picture of her Ladyship in the person of his Heroine. She pretends to make this Charge plainly appear from the exact resemblance of their Stature, Features, Age and Complexion; from the conformity of their Manners, and the sameness of their Appetites, Temper and Constitution. And farther, as an incontestable proof and explication of the Poet's Invective, she is pleased to urge those various Acts and Extraneous, which are ascribed to *Myra*; viz. her Marriage with an old Gallant, her Love in the Centry Box, her Affair with the

Frokin,

Frokin, and her Combat with her third Husband; which, as she alledges, are the most remarkable Anecdotes of her own Life. Nay, she lays claim to the very name of *Myra*; which, she affirms, is her own property, and was impudently borrowed by our Author with no other intent but to traduce it, and point her out in such a manner, that no one may possibly mistake his meaning. Upon the whole, she has pronounced this Poem to be a Mock-Epic, or rather a virulent Satire, levelled against her Ladyship and her faithful Confederates; and she has sworn by all her Gods, that both Mr. *Scheffer* and you shall be punished in a most exemplary manner; and that her Vengeance shall pursue you, tho' you were to retire to a Cave in *Lapland*. Even poor C. the innocent Publisher of this Work, she has threatened with the Effects of her Resentment; and for that purpose, she lately took into her Service the most formidable Knight in this Kingdom, who was equal to any Task she thought fit to impose upon him. And, if this Man had not been providentially snatched away, we should all, long before this time, have been made sensible of the power of his Ministry, and have found by fatal experience, that the Rhetorick of a few *Affidavits* is far superior to the strongest Lines in your Translation.

I don't know who is appointed to supply the place of this mighty Warrior, or whether the *Right Honourable* may think any Person worthy to succeed him. But be that as it will, you may be assured, that I remain firm to my engagements; and that I am neither to be intimidated by the frequent menaces I receive; or to be corrupted by any rewards which may be offered me to betray my trust. However, I should acknowledge it as a singular favour, if you would furnish me with a Key to the Poem, I imagine, that by unfolding the Characters, I shall immediately undeceive the *Right Honourable*, and calm her fury, as well as prevent any bloody designs, which may be formed against us by her new Agents and Bravo's. I have observed, that a consciousness of Guilt is very apt to *Apply*, and will often find out a meaning which was never intended. I have also been taught, that every Likeness is not the same. There was such a Resemblance betwixt the two *Safia's*, that they could not be distinguished, when they stood together. And yet, the one was a God of fine Parts, and the other a mere mortal Buffoon. I hope therefore, that your answer will set this matter in a clear Light; especially if you will allow me to publish it, for the instruction of the *Right Honourable*,

nourable, her Allies, and Advocates. For if I can convince this *Myra*, that she is not the other *Myra*, I may expect to live in Peace, and to prosecute my Business without interruption. I am,

S I R,

Your most Obedient, and

Most Humble Servant,

Dublin,

Feb. 9. 1733.

Lewis O Neil.

P. S. Since I finished my Letter, I have received certain Information, that the B. of **, my Lord of *, Captain **, Mr. **, and Mr. **, have agreed in the manner of Decyphering Mr. Scheffer's Poem, and are come to a Resolution to fix the Character of *Myra* upon the *Right Honourable*.

Mr. O DONALD's Answer.

S I R,

I Thank you for your diligence in advertising the new Edition of the T O A S T. I have indeed received so many pressing Letters to hasten the publication of this Work, that I cannot any longer disappoint the expectations of the Town. I consider, besides, that we all grow old; and if any more of the chief Actors should quit the Stage, before they have gone through their Parts, my Audience would not be so properly entertained. Poets and Philosophers are generally in greatest esteem after they are dead: But a *Scaramouch* and *Harlequin* must be seen in order to be admired. When the Curtain is dropt, they are soon forgot; and a bare relation of their feats is seldom worth the hearing.

Asto the Copper Plates, I believe they may afford a new diversion. Burlesque Figures (and *Scheffer's* Subjects can furnish out a sufficient number) sometimes make a more lasting impression on the Reader's mind, than the most lively descriptions. Even the excellent Wit of *Don Quixot*, tho' it certainly wants no adven-

adventitious Ornaments, has been read with a double Pleasure, since the Knight has been exhibited in all his different Attitudes by the Pencil of *Coyvel*. I am only concerned, that I could not prevail with the Painter to send you a Sketch of this part of the Work: He has conceived a Jealousy, that his Designs may be hurt by such an Anticipation. But perhaps it may in some measure satisfy the curiosity of your Friends to peruse Mr. *Scheffer's* original Instructions; which I here inclose translated into *English*, for the benefit of my good Lord of,* and other great Personages, who are highly pleased with our Author's manner; but by reason of the Delicacy of their Taste and Education, cannot be supposed to understand his Barbarous *Latin*. How far the Painter has varied from these Instructions, or what he has added or left out, I have not yet enquired.

**Excerpta ex Schefferi Epistola imā
ad H—garthum, pictorem apud
Britannos celeberrimum.**

I.

*Pingatur, fac, H—garthe, Sol noctivagus,
Et noctis superbia, Ignesque varii.*

*Compotores affumat Sol Carbonariam,
Militemque malum, in lucem usq; cœnitans.*

Pingatur irrisi gravior vultus Dei;

Ex turpata rugis capitisque nive

Myra largiore bibatur poculo.

II.

Pingantur Eques inops, dives Sceſia,

C—mitissa Bombardomachide calens,

Vitriarius Vol, & arma Volcania,

Et Trulla morbis effracta venereis,

Et Mavortis spolia, & Pellex, & Canes,

Et, quæcunque in corde gessit, Bella horrida.

*An Extract out of Mr. Scheffer's
first Epistle to H—garth, a famous
British Painter.*

I.

Draw the Sun without a Ray,
Rambling by a borrow'd light,
Tippling till the dawn of Day,
With a Collier and a Knight:
Paint his Looks, when he was Roasted;
Paint the Donna, whom he Toasted.

II.

Draw a Cully Chevalier,
Near a crafty, wealthy Fox;
Then a Centry Grenadier,
With a C—tess in his Box.
Shew the Bottle-maker's Gear,
And his Tulla with a Peer.
Paint the Warrior's Arms and Chattels,
And his Bloody-minded Battles.

Excerpta ex Schefferi Epistola ad
ad H—garthum pictorem.

*Pinge tui Vatis varias, H—garthe, figuras;
Hic Myram Myraeque Priapum:*

*Illic aufugiens vastum se condat in antrum
Androgyni sua parvula Conjux.*

*Hic ponantur Opes; hic stet Craticula, quæ
jam*

Pergratis sudavit osellis.

*Hic Matrona furens cupiat (mirabile!)
Nymphas*

Permolere, Uxoresque alienas.

*Arrigat hic sese Gafnei fustis, & Heros
Magnanimus patiensque feriri.*

*Artibus atque armis aptus scribatur equisque
Iracundus Homuncio; cujus*

*Demissum ad talos caput altum ornet Cali-
endrum,*

Mille latent ubi mille sagittæ!

*Extremam hanc, H—garthe, mihi concede fi-
guram:*

Adsit quædam hirsutior hirco;

Contemptrix Divum, nulli ante domabilis

Uxor;

Quæ metuens, resupina, Spadonem

*Se fieri, tendat supplex ad sydera palmas,
Imbelli devicta Marito.*

An Extract from Mr. Scheffer's second Epistle to Mr. H—garth.

I.
H—garth, draw a Gothic Group;
Here old *Myra* and her Measure,
* Hiding *Impy* in her—Hoop:
There the Gridir'n, and the Treasure:

II.
Here a Wife or wanton Maid,
With a Matron spread upon her;
There a mighty Hero laid
In the truckle-bed of Honour:

III.
Here a little angry Wight,
Fam'd for Hunting, Arms, and Arts,
With an Ell of Wig bedight,
Which conceal'd a thousand darts:

IV.
There a bulky bearded Shrew,
Nor of Men or Gods afraid,
† Yielding to a feeble Foe,
Left an Eunuch she be made.

* See the beginning of the Battle in the fourth Book.

† See the Conclusion of the TOAST.

In answer to the rest of your Letter concerning the *Right Honourable*, who fancies her self to be *Scheffer's Myra*, I must assure you, that his Poem does not require a Key; there being no Allegory in his historical Relations, nor any deceit or disguise in his Characters. And all other difficulties are sufficiently explained by the Commentator's Notes. It happens indeed oddly enough, that two different Ladies should pretend to the same poetical Name; and that they should be so much alike in their Persons, as not to be distinguished from each other. But 'tis still more remarkable, that there should be such an exact correspondence in their lives and manners; that they should have the same Appetites and Inclinations; and lastly, that they should care for the same Woman, and marry the same Man. However, we must examine farther into the actions of your *Right Honourable*, and bring her to another Test, before we can allow her to stand in the place of *Scheffer's Myra*. If She is the same person who robbed our Author of two thousand Pounds; and afterwards, in conjunction with a wicked old Fellow, who is since departed to answer for his Crimes, hired a Villain to *Assassinate Scheffer* in the Streets of *Dublin*: if, when she did not succeed in this attempt, she associated with three other Spirits as wicked as herself, and by the vilest artifices endeavoured to

blast

blast his Reputation, and by Subornation and Perjury, to deprive him of all the little Estate which he had in this Kingdom: I say, if such is the *Right Honourable*, then is she the true and original *Myra*; otherwise she is a Counterfeit, and has no pretence to that Title. Wherefore, as soon as you receive this Letter, it will be expedient for you to enquire, if she is inclined to acknowledge the truth of this accusation. If she should not, we are all acquitted; if she should, I am apt to believe, that her Complaints will have but little weight with the publick.

As to the rest, — Let us suppose this Work to be, what it is called by *Scheffer's* Enemies, a Mock-Epic or Satire; yet I think there is room enough to vindicate the Author. If he had no other motive in writing it, but to do himself justice, his Design was unblamable, and I fancy he has not laboured in vain. As for my part, I shall ever be of opinion, that the Man, who is incapable of being warmed with a proper Resentment, or is insensible to such injuries as *Scheffer* received during his Residence in *Dublin*; that Man, I say, must have a Soul that is equally void of Love, or Gratitude, or any other noble passion. I do not by this intend to excite Men to Revenge upon ordinary Occasions, or to resent every Affront, that may be offered by an impertinent Woman, or a common Brawler. Such a proceeding

ceeding is as much beneath a Gentleman, as it is unbecoming a Philosopher and a Christian. But when a premeditated Design has been formed by Persons, who hold some rank and estimation in the World, to defame a Neighbour, to rob him of his Property, and even to murder him in the High-way; surely the Man, who is thus injured, has a right to complain in what manner he pleases. He has a right, especially if the Law is not sufficient to procure him a Reparation, to examine into the Lives of his Adversaries, and to expose their Conduct to the censure of the Publick. I may be allowed to carry this farther, and affirm, that this is a Duty which we owe to our Country. 'Tis hanging out a Light to direct Travellers in a dark Night; and a Signal to Mariners, to avoid those Rocks upon which others have split. And this is the very Apology which Mr. *Scheffer* makes in a short Apostrophe to *Clara*, about the middle of the IVth Book, for the Liberties he has used in describing the Persons, and the Morning Exercises of *Myra* and her *Imp*. Give me leave to add, that no consideration of Family or Fortune ought to divert our Enquiry, or screen any Person, who has been guilty of the Crimes I have mentioned. At least, for my part, I shall never pay that regard to human Distinctions, as to honour the Enemies of Mankind. No exterior Quality, or the Grandeur of the Figure shall influence

ence me to spare that Woman, because she
 is a Countess; or that Man, because he is
 a *new made* Knight: When perhaps the first
 may be render'd as infamous by her Actions, as
 any Female upon the *Irish* Records; and the
 other may be a Knight of that Appellation
 (for there are Knights of several Appellati-
 ons) with whom an honest Cobler would
 not exchange either his Trade or his Title.
 However, in these Recriminations, I would
 not have my Author exceed the Truth, or
 load his greatest Enemies with an Accusa-
 tion, which they do not deserve. I think
 it was a great Error in the Primitive Zeal,
 to charge even *Judas* with Incest, because he
 betrayed his Master. If our Poet had in-
 vented a String of Calumnies; or had drawn
 his Heroine out of Character; I would not
 justify him by the usual Plea of a poetical
 Licence, notwithstanding the Insults and De-
 predations, which have been made upon him.
 But, as I have observed in another place,
 he has not gone a step out of his way, in
 order to enlarge his Subject. He has con-
 tented himself with relating such notorious
 facts, as were committed in the *face of*
the Sun. These indeed he has embel-
 lished with a whimsical Versification, lest
 a bare and dry narrative should not suffi-
 ciently engage the Reader. It may not
 perhaps be always safe or seasonable to
 speak Truth, or expose such a malevolent
 Creature

Creature as *Scheffer's Myra*. But surely, such an Attempt, tho' the Author had not received any personal Injuries, ought not to be charged upon him as a scandalous Invective or Malediction. *Indignis si maledicitur, maledictum id esse puto: Verum si dignis dicitur, benedictum est meo quidem animo* By what Law or Logic can an honest Man be arraigned of Malice or Slander for placing a Witch in her Circle, or calling the Devil by his own Name?

As to the share which I have had in putting *Scheffer's Poem* into an *English Dress*, I have no cause to repent it, since I find my Labours are sufficiently compensated by the approbation of the best and the most learned Men in this Kingdom. Ought I not therefore to disregard the Censures of an *Ignorant Priest*, whom the caprice of Fortune has raised from the Plough to the Purple, and who stands up in defence of *Myra's* Actions for no other Reason, that I know of, but because they are analagous to his own? As little am I to be moved by the Bounces of a *Bully-Captain*, who takes upon him to condemn a Work, which he is not able to read; and presumes to threaten a Gentleman, whom he does not know, and from whom he never received any Injury or Offence. Least of all shall I be affected by the Menaces and Imprecations of *Those*, who are really characterised by

our

our Author, if any such Persons are now in being. They must surely be too infamous to conciliate the Favour of the Publick, or to interest in their Quarrel any number of Men or Women, who have a just regard for their own Characters, and so much sense as not to be deceived by false Colours. However, if any of these *Scheferean* Heroes or Heroines, Hermaphrodites, Imps or Witches should still exist, I will at present return no other Answer to their Threats and Curses, than what is contained in the following Ode, which I have borrowed from my Author, and which (in all the late Editions) I find printed at the end of his Works.

I must acquaint you, that this Ode was written sometime after the Publication of the First Volume [of *Scheffer*]. It was occasioned by some outrageous Speeches, which were thrown out against him by a certain old Kern, and a little Sarcastical Lady. The first pretended, that he was designed by *Vol*, because that Character would not fit any Body else. The Lady accused our Author for a quite contrary Reason. She applied to herself these Lines in the second Book,

Little A*, whom erst I invok'd for my Goddess,
Now alas! was untoasted for wearing Steel Boddice;
because she was as strait as an Arrow, and
had never once in her Life employed a
Black-smith to make her Stays.

B

O D E.

O D E.

*Jam ferox P—ttus minitatur ensem ;
 Ingeni telum jaculatur Ales ;
 Ac suum nobis inimica miscet
 Myra venenum.*

*Invocant manes Equitis scelesti :
 Intonans sed quos agitat Megæra,
 Si jam in Orco debita pejeratos
 Pæna sequatur.*

*Natus ille in perniciem suorum.
 Bella quot movit C—mitissæ adulter ?
 Quas senex lites ; avidusque & ipsa in
 Morte cruentus ?*

*Terruit nec me gladius, neque atræ
 Alitis dirum recinentis omen ;
 Nec Sm—thi quicquid potuit ministro
 Dæmone Myra.*

*Devovet vatis caput immerentis,
 Mox sibi nectit laqueum Lycambes.
 Me meus servat Patriæ Diisque
 Phæbus amicum.*

*Spiritum Phæbus tenuem jocosum
 Carminis nobis dedit, atque P—ttum
 Ludere invisum ; dedit & malignas
 Lædere Sagas.*

O D E.

The Captain draws as fierce as stout,
And *A—* throws her Wit about ;
With Poison, *Myra* too gives out,
She'll work us.

They all invoke the wicked Sprite,
Which dwelt in Body of Sir Knight,
Compell'd with Furies now to fight
In Orcus.

Bane of his House, in Blood and Strife,
Inflam'd by *B—*'s wicked Wife,
He studied Vengeance all his Life,
And dying.

I value not the Sword of *P—*,
The croak of Raven, *A—*'s Chat,
The Witch—— and by her Imps all that
She's trying.

An Hempen String may chance reward
Those Curses, which I disregard.
Phæbus preserves the pious Bard
From Fate here.

Phæbus instructs me how to Joke,
The Hags, and Collier to provoke,
And make 'em feel the keenest Stroke,
Of Satire.

If I receive any farther advices from you in confirmation of these violent Schemes, which seem at present to be forming against us, I may perhaps think it necessary to trouble you with another apologetical Epistle, in which I will enlarge upon some particular Facts, which I have but slightly mentioned here. In the mean time, whether you publish this Letter or not, (which is a matter I leave wholly to your discretion) it would not be amiss to communicate it to the *Right Honourable*, if you imagine you can by that means remove the Doubts, which at present perplex her. However, if what I have here said should not be sufficient to convince her, that she is not the *Myra* intended by *Scheffer*, let her only have patience, till the new Edition of the *TOAST* appears; and then I'll forfeit all my Reputation as a Writer, if any Man in the *British* Dominions, who has a single grain of Sagacity, shall mistake the Picture of *Myra*, or apply any of the Poet's Characters to persons, for whom they were not originally designed. I am,

Cork,
Feb. 14. 1734.

S I R,

Your most Humble Servant,

P. O DONALD.